

Appl. No. 10/750,543
Amdt. Dated October 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 89285.0004
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 14, 2005. Claims 1 and 2 are canceled without a prejudice. Claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 11-16, 18-19, and 21 have been amended. The preamble of claim 21 has been amended to reflect a more accurate English language translation of the Japanese phrase. Claims 3-21 remain in this application. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the amendments or arguments presented herein. Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-5, 9, 11-12 and 14-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3, 5, 11, 12, 14, and 15 have been rewritten in independent form and are, therefore, allowable. Claims 4, 13, and 16-21 depend from claims 3, 5, 11, 12, 14, and 15 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 3, 5, 11, 12, 14, and 15.

Art-Based Rejections

Claims 1-2, 6-8, 10, 13 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,481,184 (Junker) in view of EP:444865 (Blaskovitz-Lamb). The rejection of claims 1-2 is moot due to the cancellation of the claims. The rejection of claims 6-8, 10, 13, and 21 has been overcome by making these claims dependent from allowable claims 3, 5, 11, 12, 14, and 15.

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Conclusion


In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 789-5153 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: October 6, 2005

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